STORIES of the BIG LEAGUERS---By CHRISTY MATHEWSON

logical moment, his league managers mention it as the threak and probers

ring is of a mal importance. And in most imultaneously his opponents are doing judgment of the man was correct. everything they can to disconcert him.

shrewd league leader can often time it. Frequently a certain style of play is adopted to lead up to the pinch, then suddenly a slevenly mode of attack is changed and the team comes on with a I saw him in Texas. rush to break up the name. That is the real test of a pitcher. He must be able and was short of uniforms. He was to live through these squalls.

Two evenly matched clubs have been playing through six innings with neither team gaining any advantage. Let us say that they are the Giants and the Chicago Cubs. Suddenly the Chicago pitcher begins to weaken in the seventh. Spectators cannot perceive this, but McGraw, the Giants' manager, has detected some crack.

All has been quiet on the bench up to one day. this moment. Now the men begin to fling about sweaters and move around. one going to the water cooler to get a drink, another picking up a bat or two Graw. and flinging them in the air, while four or five prospective hitters are lined up. awinging several sticks apiece as if abso lutely confident that each will get his

turn at the plate The two coachers on the side lines have become dancing dervishes, waving sweaters and arms wildly and shouting various words of discouragement to the pitcher cause he is there in a pinch. which are calculated to make his job as oft as a bed of concrete. He has pitched three balls to the batter, and McGraw vehemently protests to the umpire that the twirler is not keeping his foot on the elab. The game is delayed while this is discussed at the pitcher's box and the umpire brushes off the rubber strip with whick broom.

There is a kick against these tactics from the other bench, but the damage has been done. The pitcher passes the batter, forgets what he ought to throw to the next man and cannot get the ball where he wants it. A base hit follows. Then he is gone. The following batter triples, and before another pitcher can be warmed up three or four runs are across the plate and the game is won. That explains why so many wise managers keep a pitcher warming up when the man in the box is going strong.

It is in the pinch that the pitcher shows whether or not he is a big leaguer. He must have something besides curves then, inning behind him he said to me. He needs a head, and he has to use it. It is the acid test. That is the reason so many men who shine in the minor leagues fati to make good in the majors. They was

can't stand the fire. on the sacks and he wouldn't know for the Giants last year that way. whether he was in a pitcher's box or learnwhether he was ma pitcher s box or learning aviation in the Wright school, and he Very often spectators think that a poor batter up and then had him bang inning. I had been popping them through, he can do."

of these time has the real burden falls tempted by this man's brilliant record in son) best illustrates the point I want to games I pitched against the Boston club with four runs, and we lost the game, there were more plays possible. Besides,

A GREAT PINCH PITCHER.

On the other hand Otis Crandall came ning to the New York club a few years ago a

The club had a large number of recruits among the last of the hopefuls to arrive and there was no suit for him, so, in a pair of regular trousers, with his coat off. he began chasing flies in the outfield. His head hung down on his chest, and when not playing a cigarette drooped out of the corner of his mouth. But he turned out to be a very good fly chaser and McGraw admired his persistency

"What are you?" McGraw asked him

"A pitcher," replied Crandall, Two words constitute an oration for him.

Crandall warmed up, and he didn't have much of anything besides a sweeping outcurve and a good deal of speed. He looked less like a pitcher than any of the spring crop, but McGraw saw something in him and kept him. The result is he has turned out to be one of the most valuable men on the club be-

He couldn't be disturbed if the Mc-Namaras tied a bomb to him with a time fuse on it set for "at once." He is the sort of pitcher who is best when things look darkest. I've heard the crowd yelling so that a sixteen inch gun couldn't have been heard if it had gone off in the lot while he was pitching on the enemy's

That crowd was making some noise." I've said to Crandall after the inning. "Was it?" asked Otie. "I didn't notice

in Philadelphia, and three men got on the bases with no one out along about the fourth or fifth inning. He shut them out without a run. It was the first game full, and none out. he had started for a long while, his specialty having been to enter a contest trouble, with two or three men on the bases and scarcely any one out. After he came to the bench with the threatening

"Matty, I didn't feel at home out there to-day until a lot of people got on the bases. I'll be all right now." And he

I believe that Crandall is the best pitcher A young pitcher came to the Glants two in a pinch in the National League and one I won't mention his name of the most valuable men to a team, for because he is pitching good minor league he can play any position and bats hard. ball now. He was a wonder with the bases empty, but let a man or two get also hit in a crush and won many games. A SYSTEM THAT DOESN'T ALWAYS WORK.

the minors have tried him out since, but bring out. Mordecai Brown and I were were against this man, and I won the first 4 to 2. he has always gone back. McGraw's having a pitchers' duel, and the Giants in Boston and the second in New York, I was very much down in the mouth that I had a better chance of making were in the lead by the score of 1 to 0 when the latter by the score of 2 to 1.

never forget how he looked the first spring the sort that has a fringe of nervous prosfirst in the ninth and he pushed a base hit to right field. Steinfeldt followed with a triple that brought Chance home and left

Cubs on third base. The crowd was shouting like mad. thinking I was done. I looked at the batters waiting to come up, and saw Hofman and Tinker swinging their bats in anticipation. Both are dangerous men, but the silver lining was my second look, which revealed to me Kling and Brown following Hofman and Tinker.

Without a second's hesitation I decided to pass both Hofman and Tinker because the run on third base would win the game anyway if it scored, and with three men on the bags instead of one there would be a remote chance for a triple play besides making a force out at the plate possible. Remember that none was down at this Kling and Brown had always been

When I got two balls on Hofman, try ing to make him hit at a bad one, the and made a three base hit which eventuthrong stood up in the stand and tore splinters out of the floor with its feet. And then I passed Hofman. The spectators misunderstood my motives.

"He's done. He's all in!" shouted one man in a voice which was one of the carrying, persistent, penetrating sort. The feet and cheered corns on its collective

trouble for me. The crowd quieted down some, perhaps because it wasn't possible for it to cheer any louder, but probably because the spectators thought that now it would be only a matter of how many the Cubs would win by. The bases were

But that wildly cheering crowd had worked me up to greater effort and I after some other pitcher had got into struck Kling out, and then Brown followed him back to the bench for the same reason. Just one batter stood between me and a tied score now. He was John Evers, and the crowd having lost its chartle of victory was now begging him to make the hit which would bring just one run over the plate. They were surprised by my recuperation after having passed two men. Evers lifted a gentle fly to left field and the three men were left on the bases. The Giants eventually won that game in the eleventh inning by

the Nerves of the Players Are Strained to the Utmost-That Is the

Time When the Pitcher's Skill Is Tested.

weeks trip, and when the Giants returned manager of the Giants, noticed it. It was one of those fragile games in a series was scheduled with Boston at the raw country boy from Indiana. I shall which one run makes a lot of difference. Polo Grounds. There was a good deal of worth it. The game ought to teach you stepped up to the plate, "go as far as you cross me by telling the truth. Before speculation as to whether I would again not to pitch your head off when you don't like. Blot up the bases, old boy. This he spoke I wasn't sure which corner tration for the spectators. Chance was up beat the veteran Kid Nichols, and the need to. newspapers, taking up the pitching duel. It did. I have never forgotten that lesstirred up considerable enthusiasm.

> the run which would win the game for the to make it three straight over the veteran. on second and third bases with two out. on the Boston club, was up at the bat. against him. He had been hitting me hard that day and I decided to pass him and take a chance on Dick Cooley, the next man, and a weak batter. So Tenney got his base on balls and the sacks were full.

Two strikes were gathered on Cooley, one at which he swung and the other called, and I was beginning to congratulate myself on my excellent judgment. which was really counting my chickens while they were still in the incubator. I attempted to slip a fast one over on Cooley and got the ball a little too high The result was that he stepped into it ally won the game by the score of 3 to 0. That was once when passing a man to get a weak batter didn't work

PUTTING ALL THAT THEY HAVE ON FACH PALL

pitching himself out, as so many youngcrowd took the cry up and stamped its stars do, when there is no necessity for "we've got you at last." it. They burn them through for eight something is lacking. A pitcher must but he didn't, and I pitched along up to the said before, who has had a habit of making remember that there are eight other men ninth with the score still tied and with him alone. He likes the chatter you felin the game, drawing more or less salary. Griffith, the carping critic, on the side lows spill out there." is foolish for two reasons.

batters in the early part of the game scheduled to arrive at the plate next. he has nothing to fall back on.

A SYSTEM THAT DOESN'T ALWAYS WORK.
But that system doesn't always work.
Often I've passed a man to get a supposed

by the Polo Grounds, and the Giants had the coacher, but I turned to Griffith and said:

"Look at little Josh," said Bender, but I turned to Griffith and said:

"Look at little Josh," said Bender, but I turned to Griffith and said:

"I'll bring Mike up and we'll see what who had been talking to batters all through

"Never mind, Matty," he said, "it was

has the opposite effect from that desired. me talking to a pitcher he is very irritating.

I was working in a game against the Reds in Cincinnatione day just after he asked. "Guess there ain't many games had been made manager of the club, and left in you. You're getting old." Griffith spent the afternoon and a lot of When I broke into the National League breath trying to get me going. The the Brooklyn club had as bad a bunch of of the seventh. In the Cincinnati half of The team had won the championship in had on Griffith was much the same as that and Hanlon-got after me pretty strong. I have always been against a twirler of a lighted match on gasolene.

innings and then, when the pinch comes. It looked in that inning as if I wasn't right, conversational ball players: to stop balls hit at them, and he must have lines. We failed to count in our half, but put all that they have on each ball. This stole second, and went to third on a sacri- young pitcher.

when things get tight. If a pitcher has meant the game. Hoblitzell and Mitchell. the recent world's series. displayed his whole assortment to the two of Griffith's heaviest batters, were Josh Devore, the left fielder on the spur of the second, but it worked.

made the mistake of putting all that I instead of worrying me it made me feel the bat in the seventh inning of the first leagues because of the almost perfect base

speak of the "pitcher has lost more like an aviator in the pitcher has lost his grip in a pinch when out a base hit.] My first successful year trying to strike out every hitter and straining every never other to win or to prevent defeat. The pitcher has lost his grip in a pinch when out a base hit.] My first successful year trying to strike out every hitter and in the National League was 1601, although hadn't held anything in reserve. The even giving him a chance to hit at a single even giving him a chance to hit at a single even giving him a chance to hit at a single ball. It wasn't to make a grand stand outside corner. Josh hit it to left the players and speak at the season of 1900. The Boston club at that Giants a championship-I hadn't any grip time had a pitcher named Kid Nichols, time they had stopped hitting me the ball. One run would win the game any-Several other big league managers, at all that day-but one earlier in the sea- who was a great twirler. The first two scorer had credited the Cincinnati club way, and with more men on the bases that by telling Devore what he Hobfitzell is a nasty hitter, and I thought

> over the defeat efter I had the game Mitchell hit the ball on the ground, a dethe team took the field for the ninth in- Both teams then went West for a three apparently won and George Davis, then sirable result under the existing condi-"Now, Mike," urged Griffith, as Mitchell crack I guessed that he was trying

> > blond is gone."

That sort of talk never bothers me. son. Many spectators wonder why a had better luck with Mitchell than I had Of course I, the youngster, was eager pitcher doesn't work as hard as he can hoped, for he struck out. The next bat- by those tactics. It was taking a char all through the game instead of just in ter was easy, and the Giants won the in a pinch, and Bender lost. Neither team had scored at the beginning the pinches, and then they argue there game in the tenth inning. According to Neither team had scored at the beginning the pinches, and then they argue the pinches. But there would the newspaper reports I won twenty-one game of the world's series realize the on second and third bases with two out the pinches and if the pinches didn't conserve his or twenty-two games before Cincinnati the "break" in that contest came in the be, and if the pitcher didn't conserve his or twenty-two games before Cincinnati and Fred Tenney, then playing first base energy the pinches would usually go beat me again, so it can be seen that josh- fifth inning. The score was tied, we ing in pinches is not always effective runners on second and third bases with against pitchers. A manager must judge two out when Eddie Collins, the fast se BAWLING AT THE PITCHER IN A PINCH. the temperament of his victim. But ond baseman of the Athletics, and a dar Sometimes bawling at a man in a pinch Griffith has never stopped trying to ragi gerous hitter, came to the bat. I realize

Only last season, when the Giants were Clark Griffith, recently of Cincinnati, has a reputation in the big leagues for being a bad man to upset a pitcher from the in Cincinnati before a game, and he was coacher's box. Off the field he is one of the batting out flies near me. He'd talk to decentest fellows in the game, but, when the between each ball, he hit to the outfield:

"Got anything to-day, Matty?" he

Giants were ahead, 5 to 1, at the beginning tuen to bother a pitcher as I ever faced. that inning Mike Mitchell tripled with the 1900, and they were naturally all pretty bases full and later tailied on an outfield chesty. When I first began to play in fly which tied the score. The effect this 1901 this crowd-Kelly, Jennings, Keeler But I seemed to get pitching nourishment "Now, you big blond," he shouted at me, out of their line of conversation and won a lot of games. At least, so I've been told. I expected McGraw to take me out, as Hanlon, who was the manager, said to his

"Lay off that Mathewson kid. Leave

They didn't bother me after that, but confidence in them. Some pitchers will the first Cincinnati batter got on the bases, this bunch spoiled many a promising Merkle landing on Collins and touchan

second and more important, it shows the I tried to get the next batter to hit at bad carelessly placed conversation belonging probably lose. The sudden slide by Conversation belonging probably lose. batters everything that he has, which is balls, and he refused, so that I lost him, to Chief Bender, the Indian pitcher on lins was a very clever trick, as he hope senseless. A man should always hold I was afraid to lay the ball over the plate, the Athletics, that did as much as any- to pass us in this way and scramble to the something in reserve, a surprise to spring in this crisis as a hit or an outfield fly thing to give the Giants the first game in hag. That football shove was a branching in reserve, a surprise to spring in this crisis as a hit or an outfield fly thing to give the Giants the first game in hag.

New York team, is an in and out batter. and has used all his speed and his fastest

"You ought to be up, Mise," yelled the breaking curve, when the crisis comes | Cincinnati manager at Mitchell, who was apt to make a hit in a tight place than yelop in all big league contests by an swinging a couple of sticks preparatory when the bases are empty. And he is meens. Sometimes one team starts Like all youngsters, I was eager to to his turn at the bat. "Too bad you quite as likely to strike out. He is the win in the first inning and simply tu make a record during my first year in won't get a lick, old man, because Hobby's type of ball player who can't be rattled. away from the other club. But in all clos the big league, and in one of the first going to break it up right here."

With Chief Myers on second base, the games I pitched against Cincinnati I Something he said writated me, but score tied and two out. Devore came to With Chief Myers on second base, the games the pinch shows up

the game

The property of the state of th

worries Josh. "I'm going to pitch you a curved over the outside corner," shouted be

as he wound up.
"I know it, Chief," replied Josh he set himself to receive just the

Up came the predicted curve over for two bases, and brought hom winning run. Bender evidently the actually going to pitch he would him think he was going to cross him

"I knew it would be a curve ball. vore told me after the game. "W anything else. When he made he was going to put it over, but he tole

Some batters might have been fooled

Very few of the fans who saw this fire that I was skating on thin ice and wa putting everything I had on the ba Collins hit one down the first base In

With the hit I ran over to cover I to get directly in my line of approach field it. Collins was steaming down t base line and realized that if he could g he decision at first on this hit his tea would probably win the game, as thet other runners could score easily

flash I was aware of this too "I'll take it," yelled Merkle as he stop; to pick up the ball.

Seeing Merkle and me in front of his both heavy men. Collins realized that couldn't get past us standing up. Wh still ten or twelve feet from the bag siid, hoping to take us unawares and the avoid being touched. He could the scramble to the beg. As soon as jumped I realized what he hoped to and fearing that Merkle would miss hit I grabbed the first baseman and burk

It was an old fashioned football shot him out. A great many of the spectate WHEN BENDER FAILED TO FOOL RIS MAN. believed that I had interfered with Merkle In the first place it exhausts the man physically and when the pinch comes he hasn't the strength to last it out. But receive a terrible showing up."

Speaking of sizing up the temperament of batters and pitchers in a pinch, few persons realize that it was a little bit of that if Collins wasn't put out we would be level that I had interfered with Merkly on the play. As matter of fact I though that it was the crisis of the game and knew persons realize that it was a little bit of that if Collins wasn't put out we would be level that I had interfered with Merkly on the play. As matter of fact I though the play is a pinch that it was the crisis of the game and knew persons realize that it was a little bit of that I had interfered with Merkly on the play. As matter of fact I though the play is a property of the play is a property of the play. As matter of fact I though the play is a play in the play in the play is a play in the play in the play is a play in the play in the play is a play in the play in the play is a play in the play in the play is a play in the play in th new play to me in baseball, invented on the

In minor leagues there are fewer gam-

It happens in many contests in the maj ball. Depending on his fielders a manage

nerve against the pitcher's.

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